REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 57 has been cancelled and new claims 60 and 61 have been added. Claims 1, 8-14, 31-32, 38-56 and 58-61 are pending and under consideration. Claims 45-54 are allowed. Claims 8-9 and 31-32 are objected to.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS / REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112 (CLAIMS 55-56)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection/objection. FIGS. 9A and 9B and page 12 of the present Specification disclose the features of claims 55 and 56 (including the fluid swirl formation object disposed at a center of the body). Specifically, the claimed concave space corresponds to concave part 33. The fluid swivel formation object corresponds to fluid swirl object 32, which is at a center of equipment 31.

Applicant previously pointed out the specific disclosure of these features in the Specification. In response to these specific arguments, the Examiner has made a general statement that these claim features are not in the Specification. However, the Examiner has not addressed the previous arguments with particularity. The Examiner has not explained why these previously pointed out portions of the Specification and drawings do not support the claims. A more clear explanation of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siniaguine et al. (U.S. Patent 6,099,056) in view of Siniaguine et al (U.S. Patent 6,402,843).

The claim is cancelled herein.

Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siniaguine et al. (U.S. Patent 6,402,843) in view of Akashi (U.S. Patent 5,067,762).

The Examiner admits that Siniaguine '843 does not teach the claimed fluid discharge passage, but instead relies upon the pipe 12 of Akashi (FIG. 13). As previously discussed, the

Examiner's combination is not proper because there is no teaching in the references as to how to control the new pressure distribution created by modifying Siniaguine '843 to include the exhaust pipe 12 of Akashi so that the proper attraction is maintained. Thus, the Examiner's combination would not work properly.

In response, the Examiner relies upon rules that generally apply the combination of references but do not refute the previous arguments. In particular, the Examiner states that the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. However, since there is no teaching regarding how to deal with the pressure distribution problem, there would have been no suggestion to make the claimed combination.

Claims 1, 10, 14, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siniaguine et al. (U.S. Patent 6,402,843) in view of Trayes (U.S. Patent 4,009,785).

The Examiner relies upon Treyes as teaching the claimed centering guide and a centering mechanism to adjust the centering guide to cause the centering guide to control a lateral movement of the object. Specifically, the Examiner states that the pins 70 of Treyes correspond to the claimed centering guide, and the collar 72 of this reference corresponds to the claimed centering mechanism. Claim 1 (used herein as an example) recites that the centering mechanism is "to adjust the centering guide." However, the collar 72 of Treyes does not adjust the pins 70. Instead, the collar 72 holds the pins in a stationary position.

Claims 11, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siniaguine et al. (U.S. Patent 6,402,843) in view of Trayes (U.S. Patent 4,009,785) as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Siniaguine et al. (6,099,056).

Siniaguine '056 does not overcome the above deficiencies in Siniaguine '843 and Trayes.

Claim 59 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Siniaguine et al. (U.S. Patent 6,099,056).

Independent claim 59 recites the plurality of fluid swirl formation objects extending from respective surfaces of the first and second arm parts such that respective end faces are at different levels from the respective surfaces of the first and second arm parts. According to the Examiner, these different levels do not result in any advantage. However, as more clearly

illustrated by the attached Exhibit, spaces into which the air can flow are reserved between fluid swirl formation objects. Consequently, turbulence resulting from direct collision of air flow from the objects can be restrained, and thereby a more stable conveyance of the wafer can be realized.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

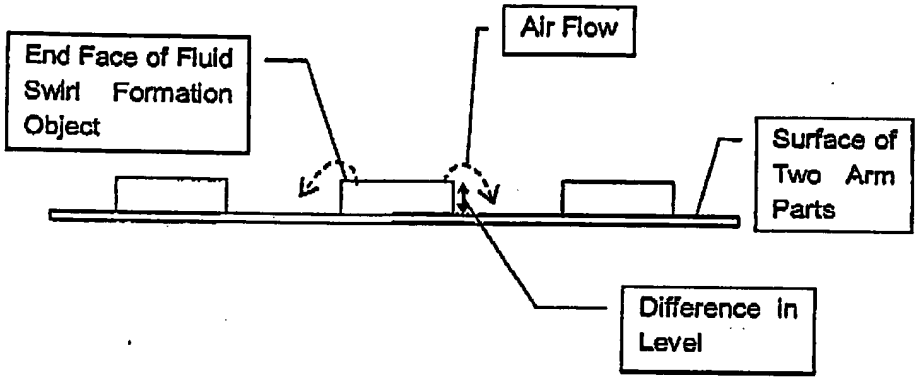
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9-26-05

By: M. Badagliacca

Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501



EXHIBIT